Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Sunday 26 Dec 2021 until 23:59 on Monday 27 Dec 2021

Forecast Issued on Saturday 25 Dec 2021 at 12:05

Confidence: High for becoming milder and showery on Sunday and for unsettled conditions into next week, but increasingly lower confidence for details.

Headline for Sunday 26 Dec 2021: Snow at most heights at first, turning to patchy rain or drizzle in morning, with some brighter spells following in afternoon, along with showers, some of these heavy.

Mountain weather hazards on Sunday 26 Dec 2021

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Heavy Snow
Low Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m

Time	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Light snow	Drizzle	Fog	Cloudy	Fog	Heavy rain showers (night)
Precipitation probability								
	90%	80%	60%	40%	30%	30%	20%	60%

Forecast for Sunday 26 Dec 2021

Weather: Snow overnight, with blizzard conditions on the tops, but turning to rain on lowest slopes by end of the night. A dull morning with snow at most elevations at first but gradually turning to rain or drizzle at all heights through the morning and becoming patchy. Some bright or perhaps sunny spells developing in afternoon with rain turning to showers, but still a good deal of hill fog around and some heavy showers, with risk of hail and thunder, especially in evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Nil becoming 30% in afternoon

Visibility: Moderate or poor, but very poor at height, with extensive cloud down to 400m, possibly 250m at first. Becoming mainly good beneath cloud in the afternoon with bases mostly lifting to 600 or 700m but down to 400m at times in showers.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Sunday 26 Dec 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	43/53 SE	41/51 SE	29/40 SE	25/34 SE	24/30 SE	20/25 SE	19/24 SE	18/23 SE	16/21 SE
600	38/52 SE	39/53 SE	35/49 SE	30/42 SE	26/36 SE	21/29 SE	19/27 SE	18/24 SE	14/20 SE
300	16/41 E	17/41 SE	16/35 SE	12/27 SE	9/23 SE	7/19 SE	8/20 SE	6/18 SE	5/14 S
Valley	17/40 E	18/40 E	17/34 E	14/29 E	11/24 E	8/19 E	7/18 E	7/16 SE	4/12 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-2/-11	-1/-10	-1/-9	0/-7	1/-6	1/-5	1/-5	1/-4	1/-4
600	-2/-12	-2/-11	-1/-10	-1/-9	0/-7	1/-5	2/-4	2/-3	2/-2
300	-0/-7	1/-5	1/-4	2/-3	3/-1	3/0	3/0	3/1	4/1
Valley	2/-4	2/-3	3/-2	3/-1	4/0	5/2	5/2	5/2	5/4
Freezing Level*	200m	300m	400m	600m	1100m	1300m	1200m	1300m	1200m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Slowly becoming milder with winds easing, but still a significant chill at height through the day. Navigational difficulties to be expected with snow and rather extensive hill fog.

Forecast for Monday 27 Dec 2021

Weather: Becoming dry with clear spells developing overnight but patchy fog could form. Fog will slowly clear in morning but cloud will thicken and lower with patchy rain or drizzle, though mainly onto southern and western slopes. Perhaps a longer spell of rain in afternoon, but mainly dry with clear spells developing in evening.

Maximum wind: Southwest 15-20mph becoming southeast 10-15mph in the morning, but light and variable in evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 60%, decreasing to 30% in morning, but 60% again later

Visibility: Good becoming moderate in rain, but very poor where cloud on hills, with broken cloud around 700 or 800m at first, but extensive above 450-600m by the end of the morning though cloud breaking up in evening.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 1 C rising to plus 5 C
At 800m: Plus 3 C, later around Zero C
Freezing level: 1100m, falling to 800-900m in evening

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Saturday 25 December 2021 Location: Helvellyn summit at 13:25 Full report: Happy Christmas to all our followers from the fell top assessing team of Zac, Wes and Jon.This report comes with a health warning in that the Lake District is currently under a Yellow Met Office weather warning for snow (mainly at altitude) from 0:15hrs on Boxing Day to 12:00hrs so walkers out on Boxing Day should expect and be prepared to encounter more snow than experienced and described in this report.The majority of the Lakeland fells and paths are now clear of snow up to and including summit level. That said, above 750m some substantial patches of snow remain. These are generally, but not exclusively, to be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on east and north facing aspects. With the recent milder temperatures, the snow had been slowly softening. However, with a daytime summit temperature on Christmas Day of minus 3 degrees, all the snowpack encountered today had returned to hard snow and ice. Although most paths are completely clear of snow, extreme care needs to be taken where they are covered – especially on steep ground such as on the, so called, “easy” route up Helvellyn from Swirrls; here there is a bank of avoidable (but it requires a scramble) steep snow. There are deep steps cut into it, but such sections require care – especially in descent and bear in mind that on Boxing Day such old hard snow may well be hidden under some fresh, soft snow with the two layers not binding.On Christmas Day both Striding and Swirral Edges could be climbed without setting foot on snow, although there is a patch of avoidable snow on the path guarding Striding’s exit.With the colder temperatures, there were some isolated patches of ice and verglas (thin ice) on rocks and paths mainly above 600m. Above 700m and notably on the summit plateau, some rocks were covered in rime ice (created on a predominantly easterly wind). In addition, there was a very thin skittering of snow and hail above 500m.With summit temperature below zero and the windchill (what the temperature feels like) well below freezing, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass (and the ability to use them) are all essential for anyone going out onto the high fells. For those going above the snowline and attempting, or traversing, steep ground crampons and ice axe may well be required given the forecasted change in ground conditions.For those interested in the weather stats, there were stronger gusts of wind experienced on the ascent and descent compared with those felt on the summit. Temperature: minus 3.3 C, Maximum wind speed 26.9 mph, Wind chill: minus 10.6 C, Average wind speed: 13.6 mph

Issued at: 1205 on Sat 25 Dec 2021

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